

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1581
26 March 1999

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 26 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF MEXICO ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON
DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED BY THE RIO GROUP
ON 25 MARCH 1999 ON THE START OF AIR STRIKES ON SERB MILITARY
TARGETS BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to attach herewith the communiqué issued by the Rio Group on 25 March 1999 on the start of air strikes on Serb military targets by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Permanent Mission of Mexico requests the secretariat of the Conference to distribute the communiqué as a document for the information of the Conference.

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE RIO GROUP

The member countries of the Rio Group express their concern about the start of air strikes on Serb military targets by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and, in particular, about the fact that no peaceful solution has been found, in accordance with international law, to the dispute between the parties involved in the conflict in Kosovo.

The Rio Group therefore urges all parties to resume their talks as rapidly as possible in order to achieve a full and final agreement which will re-establish a firm and lasting peace based on respect for the human rights of all ethnic groups and minorities, and for the territorial integrity of the States, in the region.

The Rio Group also regrets that force has been used in this Balkan region without regard for the provisions of Article 53, paragraph 1, and Article 54 of the United Nations Charter, which read: "... no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council" and "The Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of the activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security".

Mexico City, 25 March 1999